

TALON TIMES

TACRON TWELVE
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011

FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK...

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Hello TALONs, families, and friends,

The Holiday season is upon us and it brings a flurry of activities as we prepare to celebrate the season and spend well-deserved time with family and friends. The season kicked-off with the Squadron and Children's Holiday parties, both resounding successes due to the hard work by our party coordinators and volunteers. Their tireless efforts over a long planning and execution process that started in the summer involved many fundraising events that made those great party events possible.

This is also an occasion to look back at the Squadron accomplishments this past year. Detachment FOUR deployed during the Spring Patrol, followed by Detachment TWO, which recently returned home following the completion of the Fall Patrol. They both superbly met all operational requirements in support of our operational commanders, Commander, Amphibious Squadron ELEVEN and Commander, Amphibious Task Force SEVEN SIX. Our detachments supported a wide range of missions in the Pacific area of responsibility by providing centralized planning, control, coordination, and integration of amphibious and expeditionary air operations. They supported humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) missions during Operation TOMODACHI following the devastating earthquake, tsunami, and Fukushima nuclear plant disasters that ravaged Northern Japan. They also supported the visit of the President to Indonesia by being ready to respond to any need for air support. They conducted numerous theater security cooperation exercises, integrating our Marine and Navy teams with host nation counterparts, thus strengthening our existing alliances and building new ones in the increasingly volatile region. Finally, they executed many exercises that integrated our own Navy (Blue) and Marine (Green) teams, thereby increasing the Blue/Green team capabilities and combat readiness. One of our Talon Shipmates, AC3 Shayne Spicer, is finishing his training for an extended assignment with Army forces in Afghanistan, and another of our Talon Shipmates, ACAN Ward, is about to begin his training for an extended assignment in Djibouti, Africa.

As we near the close of 2011, the squadron has been busy focusing on operations for the coming year, with Detachment THREE next in line to deploy in January. They have been preparing for the past six months and are ready to execute any mission assigned by our operational commanders. They'll be busy with scheduled operations that include a hull or ship swap between the USS ESSEX (ESX) and the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (BHR). The BHR will replace the ESX to become the permanently forward deployed expeditionary command ship.

In closing, the Talons of Tacron TWELVE can be proud of their accomplishments this past year and I would like to thank all the families and friends who provide the support critical to the success of our squadron members and Tacron TWELVE. Enjoy your well-deserved time with families and friends, and see you next year.

My best to you and your families,

CDR Vince Martin
Vincent.martin@navy.mil





The Ombudsman Corner



By Cortney Currier-Holloway
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Hello Talons! The holidays are just around the corner, making this my very favorite time of year! As much as I enjoy all of the food, fun and celebrating the holidays bring, I could certainly do without the stress and chaos that seem as unavoidable as fruitcake this time of year. Included in this edition of the newsletter are resources to help you avoid and cope with the stress of the holidays as well as great programs and resources available to you and your family to make this holiday season safe and special. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns and have a safe and happy holiday season!

FFSC Holiday Workshops

Would you like to develop a holiday spending plan, get tips for smart shopping, and avoid post-holiday debt? Our Developing Your Spending Plan workshop is for you!

All shopped out, attended too many parties, and baked so many cookies you can't see straight? Our Holiday Stress workshop provides information and provides tips to effectively deal with the pressures, stress, and blues of the holiday season.

Call **1-866-923-6478** for class times and registration.

*****For information about food donation resources or free toy programs, call 2-1-1 from a land line or 858-300-1211 from cell phones or contact Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647. Both organizations are open 24 hours a day to help connect you to resources!***

Holiday Childcare

To support families during the busiest season of the year, San Diego Navy Child & Youth Programs facilities are offering FREE childcare. Reservations are required one week in advance. Special holiday care hours are open to all active duty, reservists, retirees and DoD dependents. All that is needed is an up-to-date shot record for each child plus completion of an emergency card at time of drop off. Visit www.mwrtoday.com for CYP locations, phone numbers and addresses.

Christmas Eve with the San Diego Fire Department

The ASYMCA Active Duty Program Department facilitates a Christmas Eve event where junior, single Service Members get to spend a relaxing evening with members of the San Diego Fire Department. Rather than spend the holidays separated from family and friends, this program provides the opportunity to socialize and enjoy a family style meal.

For more information, call **619-232-0984**.

San Diego Military Outreach Ministries

For assistance this holiday season check out Military Outreach Ministries. San Diego Military Outreach Ministries is a community supported charity that reaches out to young enlisted military families in San Diego with a broad range of helping services. For more details, visit their web site

www.sandiegomom.org or call **619-461-4164**.





2011 Chili Cook Off and Halloween Celebration

Contributed By: AC3 Jackson

Friday October 28th the TACRON community came together yet again to celebrate Halloween and raise money for the upcoming holiday party. It was a festive event with original ideas and costumes. The costumes included the classic scary look as grim reapers, fun looks as a pin up girl, a comedic giant lobster, and the "Occupy Movement", a conscious political depiction which won first place! Who says that costumes are for kids, everyone who participated in the costume contest surely put that misconception to rest.

Another event, the Chili Cook Off, was a big hit as usual with one of Tacron Twelve's own, LT. Willcox, coming in 1st place for having the best chili ever! There were others who came close but everyone knows there can only be one winner. Our panel of judges had a great experience sampling all the chili.

Finally, let's not forget the event that had everyone riled up. Our Talons had the opportunity to nail their shipmates in the face with a pie during the "Pie in the Face" contest! This was a great event and fundraiser! The top 10 personnel nominated by their shipmates from VTC-



12, top 7 from VTC-11, & the top 5 from CTG-1 were chosen to get a pie in the face! We managed to raise over \$2100 between the chili cook off and this contest.

These events enhanced command morale and were a great opportunity to bring the Tacron community together while raising funds for our holiday party.







In more fund-raising efforts for the holiday party, many of our shipmates have been working in a joint effort with VTC-11 and COMTACGRU ONE to support Centerplate as volunteer concession stand operators at Charger games. IS3 Parsons describes the experience as hectic but well worth it. The job is busy and requires great patience, but everyone who works the games gains a great sense of pride and community service. Many of the games are sold out, so our volunteers often deal with two to three thousand customers per game. The game managers from Tacron Twelve include OS1 Lemak, IS3 Parsons, and IS3 Williams. Funds raised from these games averaged over \$3600. Our fellow Talons worked really hard to raise funds and ensure this year's holiday party was a great success.

2011 Holiday Party

By: AC3 Jackson

Dec 1, 2011 was the holiday party for the TACRONS and COMTACGRU ONE, and what a party it was. Not only was it an opportunity for everyone to show up looking spectacular in their best threads, but it was also a chance for the TACRON community to interact with each other, as there is seldom an opportunity for this. The location was stunning at the Admiral Kidd Catering and Conference Center in Point Loma. The lights in the place shined beautifully, the view was breathtaking, and one could definitely feel the holiday spirit. The party had a nice, slow start with a wonderful cocktail hour which allowed everyone to socialize over drinks and snacks. The festivities then began with numerous guest speakers, including our Commodore, CAPT Morien. After the introductions, dinner was served and the music started to



play. The Sailor of the Year awards presentation then took place, as well as the announcement of three advancements through the Command Advancement Program, each done dramatically via telephone call as all three recipients are currently deployed.

Immediately following the advancements began one of the most anticipated segments of the Holiday Party, the handing out of the door prizes. There were Xbox 360s, Play Station 3s, iPads, Kindle Fires, digital cameras, large flat screen TVs, and other numerous sought after prizes. While it was definitely disappointing if your ticket number was not called, the disappointment didn't last long. With the music and everyone getting loose on the dance floor, the holiday party was certainly something special. So thanks to all those who put in such hard work throughout the year to make this event happen, it was our best holiday party to date.

RACE FOR THE CURE

CONTRIBUTED BY: AC2 (AW) MCINTOSH

Breast cancer is a type of cancer where cells in the breast tissue divide and grow without normal control. It is a widespread and random disease, striking women and men of all ages and races. It is the most prevalent cancer in the world today, with about 1.3 million people diagnosed annually. The exact cause of the disease is unknown, and at this time, there is no cure, but there is hope. Thanks to heightened awareness, early detection through screening, improved treatment methods and increased access to breast health services, people have a greater chance of survival than ever.

On Sunday, November 6th, a team of 9 members, 5 of them from Tacron-12 participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure 5K at Balboa Park. Led by AC2 McIntosh, the team included LCDR Sandra Kosloski, LCDR Colleen Kosloski, AC1 Cameron Porter, and AC3 Adriana Conti. The team as a total raised over \$700, all of that money going towards helping the men and women in San Diego who have been diagnosed with Breast Cancer.

Despite the cold weather and a chance of rain, over 15,000 runners, walkers, volunteers, and breast cancer survivors came out to support and motivate each other. The Survivors started the morning with a parade, all of them wearing pink shirts and separated into groups of years they have been a survivor. It was truly breathtaking to see men and women walking who are currently fighting the battle and those who have been a survivor for over 30 years. There is no denying the courage and fight they all have.

At 0800, the Race clock started. Park Ave was quickly swarmed with people wearing pink shirts, wigs, tu-tu's, and even mesh shirts. Balloons and signs were in the air to show all of San Diego just how important finding a cure to this horrible cancer is to us. We made our way across a bridge over Highway 163,

and continued near the museums at Balboa Park. The last stretch was on Highway 163N up a final hill before ending on Park Ave. Thousands of supporters were waiting at the finish line, cheering each other on and giving medals to the survivors. It was an overall great experience and we hope next year is just as great, if not better!





CARRIER CLASSIC

CONTRIBUTED BY: CARRIER CLASSIC VOLUNTEERS

On Veteran's Day November 11, 2011 the first ever Quicken Loans Carrier Classic NCAA Basketball game was held onboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Carl Vinson. The teams that had the honor to play in this historic game were the Michigan State University's Spartans against the University of North Carolina Tar Heels. The two teams had the privilege to face off on the flight deck of the USS Carl Vinson in her home port of Coronado, Ca. Prior to tipoff there were numerous high ranking officials in attendance which included The President of the United States Barrack Obama, Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta. Also in attendance were Basketball star powers Magic Johnson (alumni of Michigan State University) and James Worthy (alumni of the University of North Carolina), the former teammates of the Los Angeles Lakers, 2500 screaming Spartan fans, 2500 Tar Heel fans, 2000 Active duty service members selected from a ticket lottery, and of course a 12 diehard Tacron Twelve

Talons volunteers.



The Talon volunteers spent the entire day providing augmented security with the Secret Service, aiding Disabled Veterans aboard, ushering fans to their seats,

facilitated a booth where fans could send thank you post cards to deployed service members, and sold Carrier Classic merchandise. Toward the end of the day right before tipoff the Talon volunteers were rewarded with the best seats in the house, they sat courtside under the UNC basket, just feet from UNC star player John Henson's ship rattling dunk. Many of Tacron's volunteers had the opportunity to shake the Presidents hand and even take pictures with Magic Johnson and Pamela Anderson. All in all, it was a hectic 14 hour day of volunteering; but it was well worth it to sit court side to watch the game and to represent Tacron Twelve at this most memorable game.



Coming Together...Finally!!!

Contributed By ACC(AW/FMF/SW) Saalfrank

After what seemed like forever with half Detachment Two on the ship in Sasebo and the Officers doing exercises such as UFG, we finally joined together to start a two month underway period.

October started with long days of flying to recertify the ACE (Air Combat Element), which gave us not only plenty of time to train the pilots, but also loads of training hours in TACC to attain numerous qualifications and Supervisor designations. Once the ACE completed CERTEX it was time for us to head down to SBMA to offload the Marines for PHIBLEX12. The ship seemed a little less chaotic with the Marines ashore instead of hogging the gym equipment or jumping in line for the umpteenth time to eat. After two short port visits with a majority of the Det personnel attending MWR tours such as zip lining through the jungle with a visit to a zoo, visiting the Mall of Asia or touring historic sites such as Old Manila and Corregidor, we were back at sea.

October was also declared as "Stashtober" and most of the guys in the Det started to grow out their stashes. Some succeeded in growing them, others gave up after a few weeks, and some didn't even last two days. In the end AC3

Early won the title with his Tom Selleck stash.

As November quickly approached, we headed back to Okinawa to off load most of the Marines and pick up the Fleet Surgical Team to head out for our next mission. On the transit up, three of the Det members (AC2 View, AC2 Ybarra, and AC3 Early) attained their EAWS designations. We also cross decked LCDR Walborn to the USS

DENVER to be a liaison in the chance that the ship was tasked to assist Thailand in the wake of the current flooding there. He joined back with the Det on the ESSEX soon after and we are off on our current tasking. Once we arrived in Okinawa we said "Sayonara!" to five of our Det members who were selected to return to San Diego early. The remainder of us are all looking forward to the next two possible ports prior to returning to Okinawa, but are always ready for the plans to change on a moment's notice. We all want to wish our family and friends a **Happy**

Thanksgiving!!!



DETACHMENT THREE PREPARES FOR UPCOMING DEPLOYMENT

CONTRIBUTED BY:
LCDR HARTMAN

As we look forward to the upcoming holiday season of frantic, last-minute shopping, Detachment THREE is concurrently preparing for its upcoming deployment to the Western Pacific. Many of the same folks will be making their second deployment with the detachment, but there are also a few welcome new additions to the team that will get their first taste of sea spray, jet fuel, and galley food. While TACRON TWELVE enjoys a non-traditional work-up cycle, the detachment has kept busy attending to the requisite manning, training, and administrative items in order to walk out the door early next year and be fully capable of assuming the watch onboard the USS ESSEX (LHD 2).



Training opportunities over the past six months have paid great dividends. In July, the Air Traffic Controllers (AC), under the guidance of ACC(AW/SW) Guivara traveled to Pensacola, Florida for a very successful and educational AATCC Team Trainer. The detachment also participated in a successful Joint Expeditionary Warfare Lab at NAB Coronado in September which ramped up the detachment's readiness just prior to deploying on the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) for Exercise DAWN BLITZ 2011. This was the first opportunity for real-world control work where the Tactical Air Control Center effectively integrated into a very hectic, high-density operational environment.



Following the DAWN BLITZ underway in November, the ACs were again sent to Pensacola for their final AATCC Team Trainer which served to certify the controllers safe to control aircraft while forward-deployed.

Prior to departure, all personnel have a well-deserved Pre-Operational Movement period leading up to deployment. While some have chosen to stay in the area and others to travel to see family for the Holidays, come January all hands will be ready to go with sea bags packed in anticipation of multiple exercises, a few port calls, and the prospect of new challenges and success.



WELCOME ABOARD

OS2 WALTERS	AC2 OKAMURA
AC2 PULA	IT3 RICHARDS
ACAN JONES	ACAN HALL
AN LOPEZ	AN MARROQUIN

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS...

LCDR KOSLOSKI	ISI WOLD
AC1 ARNOLD	AC2 RAMSEY
AC2 TAI	IS2 IRIZARRY
YN3 HOFMANN	

COMMAND ADVANCEMENTS!

AC1 FORTE	AC2 PULA
IS2 JERAN	AC3 HARDGRAVE
AC2 ANDREWS	OS2 DYER
OS3 CROWE	AC3 CHHAY

AWARDS

OCTOBER

LCDR KOSLOSKI – NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL
YN3 HOFMANN – NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
YN3 CRAWFORD – GOOD CONDUCT AWARD

NOVEMBER

AC1 ARNOLD – NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
ISI WOLD – NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
IS2 IRIZARRY – NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
AC2 TAI – NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
AC2 RAMSEY – LETTER OF COMMENDATION



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

OS1 CONTRANO

AC3 KRAMARCHUK

AN MASSA

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

IT1 FECTEAU

AC2 LAESSIG

IT2 NAPALAN

IS3 PARSONS

AN TALARICO

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

OSC ROWLANDS

AC2 MAINVILLE

IT3 ALISA

AC3 JACKSON

OS3 WARNER

IS3 WILLIAMS

TALON SPORTS

Sports are a big part of the TACRON community. Congratulations to those who participated in this year's flag football tournament. The TACRON Twelve team is still the reigning champions on N.A.B. Coronado and for the overall Coronado Islander Bowl! Now that flag football has been tackled, the Talons are challenging for the softball championship. You can expect to see patent Talon camaraderie and competitiveness displayed on the softball field. All personnel are encouraged to come out and play regardless of experience level. It's all about having a good time and coming together as Team TACRON! ☺



TACRON-TWELVE TALONS
2012 ISLANDER BOWL
FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS!





MWR Weekly Happenings: A great resource for on-base resources and events!

www.mwrtoday.com/sandiego/about/mwrtw

17TH ANNUAL NEW YEARS EVE BOWLING PARTY

Saturday, December 31 • 7:30 pm-12:30 am • Sea 'N Air Lanes • NASNI



Dinner from 7:30 to 9 pm • Unlimited bowling from 8:30 pm to 12:30 am • Bumper Bowling for kids • Party hats and noisemakers • Free non-alcoholic champagne at Midnight • Door prizes • Cosmic Bowling • Fun games and prizes throughout the evening

Prepay by Friday, December 23 and receive an extra door prize drawing ticket! Reservations required for lane assignments (up to 5 bowlers per lane). Limited space is available, so make reservations NOW at Sea 'N Air Lanes Bowling Center! IT'S A BLAST! For families, singles and single parents, active duty, DoD, retirees, civilians and sponsored guests.

Supporting the Navy with Sponsorship and Advertising

Sponsorship supports Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs and activities that contribute to Navy Quality of Life programs for our active duty and retired military, reservists, their family members and civilian employees. **MWR provides for our military family of over 500,000 located in the San Diego Metro Area:**

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CONTACT:
IRENE WELLS
619-556-7464
Irene.Wells@navy.mil**

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Special Events
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Bowling Centers

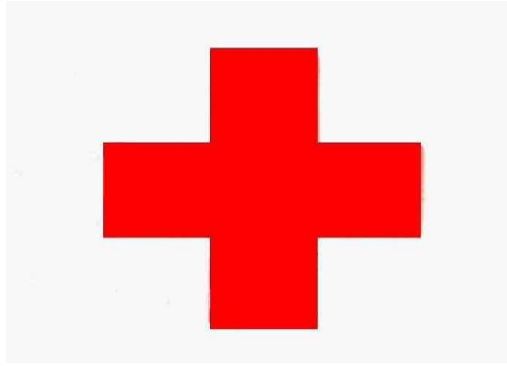


NAVY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES

Visit your local Navy College office! Navy College professionals provide educational services world-wide, anytime, anyplace to Sailors and their families, supporting their life-long learning goals and the Navy's mission. The following link provides information regarding the SOCNAV program and other benefits available to military families. Take full advantage of all of the awesome resources Navy College has to offer and go back to school!

Website: http://www.soc.aascu.org/socnav/Spouses_AidResources





The American Red Cross - Keeping Pace with the Changing Military

As part of an ongoing effort to better serve the military community, the American Red Cross announced that it will move to a single telephone number for its emergency communication services.

Beginning 13 June 2011, at 8:00 a.m. EDT, all military members and their families can use one number- **877-272-7337 (U.S. Toll Free)** to send an urgent message to a service member. The change means that all military members and their families can use this single number to initiate an emergency communication, regardless of where they live.

A call to **877-272-7337** allows Red Cross emergency communications services to put military personnel in touch with their families following the death or serious illness of an immediate family member, the birth of a service member's child or grandchild or when a family faces other emergencies.

Additional Red Cross services such as case management and emergency financial assistance also are available. For those stationed overseas, the three options for calling will remain the same: calling **877-272-7337** direct, accessing the number through a military operator, or calling the local Red Cross station.